

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



Ames Research Center
Moffett Field, California 94035

January 22, 2021

Ms. Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Parks & Recreation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816

Attn: Mr. Mark Beason

Subject: Section 106 Consultation on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Emergency Supplies Storage Container at Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Santa Clara County, California

Dear Ms. Polanco:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Ames Research Center (ARC) requests Section 106 consultation on the USGS Emergency Supplies Storage Container (project or undertaking) at ARC, Moffett Field, Santa Clara County, California. USGS proposes to install a mobile storage container at ARC in connection with an existing lease. NASA ARC has determined that this project constitutes an undertaking under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 United States Code § 306108), as amended. In support of its responsibilities under Section 106, NASA ARC is providing a description of the undertaking, the Area of Potential Effects (APE), identification efforts, a description of the affected historic properties, and an assessment of potential effects resulting from the undertaking for your review.

Project Location

The project location is in the NASA Research Park in an area behind Building 19 between North Akron Road and Bushnell Street (Figures 1 and 2, enclosed). The NASA Ames Research Park is an area of ARC designated as a shared-use research and development and education campus for industry, academia, non-profits, and government. Several public and private entities lease offices

and facilities in the research park. Building 19 is also within the U.S. Naval Air Station (NAS) Sunnyvale Historic District, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1994 (NRHP #94000045) (Figure 3, enclosed). Built in 1933 as part of the original NAS Sunnyvale campus plan, it is listed in the NRHP as a contributor to the district.

Description of the Undertaking

The proposed undertaking involves the placement of a standard 20-ft.-long mobile storage container (shipping container) on an existing concrete slab behind Building 19. The storage container is anticipated to remain at this location for the duration of the lease, approximately 20 years. The storage container will not be tied down and will not be connected to any utilities.

Area of Potential Effects

The APE is defined to address both direct and indirect potential effects on historic properties. The project involves the placement of a mobile storage container on an existing concrete slab, which has the potential to create a visible change in the setting of the adjacent historic district contributors. Due to project scale relative to the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District, the APE is limited to include the project area and Building 19, which is immediately adjacent to the project's footprint. No ground disturbance is associated with this project.

Identification Efforts

On behalf of NASA ARC, Trina Meiser, M.A. Historic Preservation Planning, who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards (48 Federal Register 44738), reviewed this project and prepared this effects assessment.

The APE has been previously surveyed for architectural resources and is located in the NAS Sunnyvale Historic District. The district was listed in the NRHP on February 24, 1994. The district was listed under NRHP Criteria A and C in the areas of Military History, Architecture, and Engineering, uniquely representing the development of U.S. naval aviation prior to World War II as one of two stations built to port lighter-than-air dirigibles in the 1930s. The listed periods of significance were 1930–1935 and 1942–1946. Hangars One, Two, and Three particularly represent twentieth-century military planning, engineering, and construction as some of the last extant gigantic airship hangars in the United States. The core of the historic station is centered on Shenandoah Plaza and buildings that incorporate Spanish Colonial Revival design. The district included several contributing buildings and structures that generally date to the 1930s to 1940s NAS Sunnyvale/Moffett Field period and exhibit the Spanish Colonial Revival style (with some exceptions, including Hangars One, Two, and Three).

Affected Historic Properties

Building 19 is listed in the NRHP as a contributor to the district. It is a two-story building with a complex plan, frame construction, stucco siding, and a low-pitched Spanish tile gabled roof

(Photograph 1). The original portion of the building was constructed in 1933 and had a U-shaped plan with a gabled roof covered in Spanish tile and Spanish Colonial Revival-style features, such as a prominent arcaded loggia in the first story of the façade and elaborate, molded ornaments at the main entrances. Substantial wings were added at the east and west ends of the building in 1952, more than doubling the building’s footprint. The façade of the original building was extended with perpendicular wings on either side. The two-story wings have flat roofs with low parapet walls, stucco exterior walls, and symmetrical rows of fenestration containing metal double-hung sash windows in each story. The building is currently used for offices; the west wing operates as the NASA Exchange Lodge hotel. On the north side of Shenandoah Plaza, Building 19 is one of the major buildings on Shenandoah Plaza that distinguishes the core of the district. The project area is located behind Building 19 (Photograph 2).



Photograph 1. Building 19 façade, south elevation, view facing north



Photograph 2. Project area at rear of Building 19, north elevation, view facing east

Effects Assessment

The project proposes to place a storage container on an existing concrete slab behind Building 19. The storage container will not be tied down to the slab or a foundation; it will remain movable. The project will not directly alter any significant historic features of Building 19 or the district but may introduce a semi-permanent visual element that could diminish the integrity of significant historic features. The storage container may remain in place approximately 20 years near the north elevation (rear) of Building 19. However, the north elevation is a secondary elevation of Building 19 that has existing, visible mechanical and utilitarian uses. In scale, the 20-ft.-long storage container is relatively miniscule adjacent to the approximately 600-ft.-long north elevation of Building 19. Due to the relative size of the proposed storage container and its placement in a utilitarian section of the yard behind Building 19, the project would have minimal impact on the ability of the district or Building 19 to convey their historical and architectural associations that make them eligible for the NRHP. In summary, the proposed undertaking would not alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify it for inclusion in the NRHP.

Determination of Effect

Based on the assessment conducted by qualified cultural resources professionals, NASA ARC has made a finding that the undertaking would have no adverse effects on historic properties pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 800.5(b).

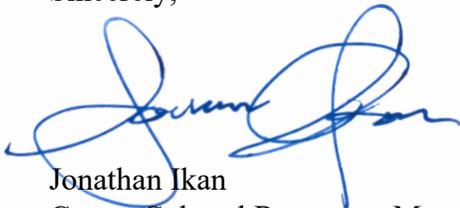
Consultation Efforts

NASA ARC has not identified additional consulting parties for this Section 106 review but is making these findings available to the public via the NASA ARC Historic Preservation Office website (<https://historicproperties.arc.nasa.gov/section106.html>).

Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5(b), NASA ARC requests the State Historic Preservation Officer's concurrence on its finding of No Adverse Effect for this undertaking. Please provide a response within 30 days of receipt of this letter, as specified in 36 CFR § 800.5(c).

Please contact me at jonathan.d.ikan@nasa.gov or at (650) 604-6859 with your comments or questions.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Ikan
Center Cultural Resources Manager



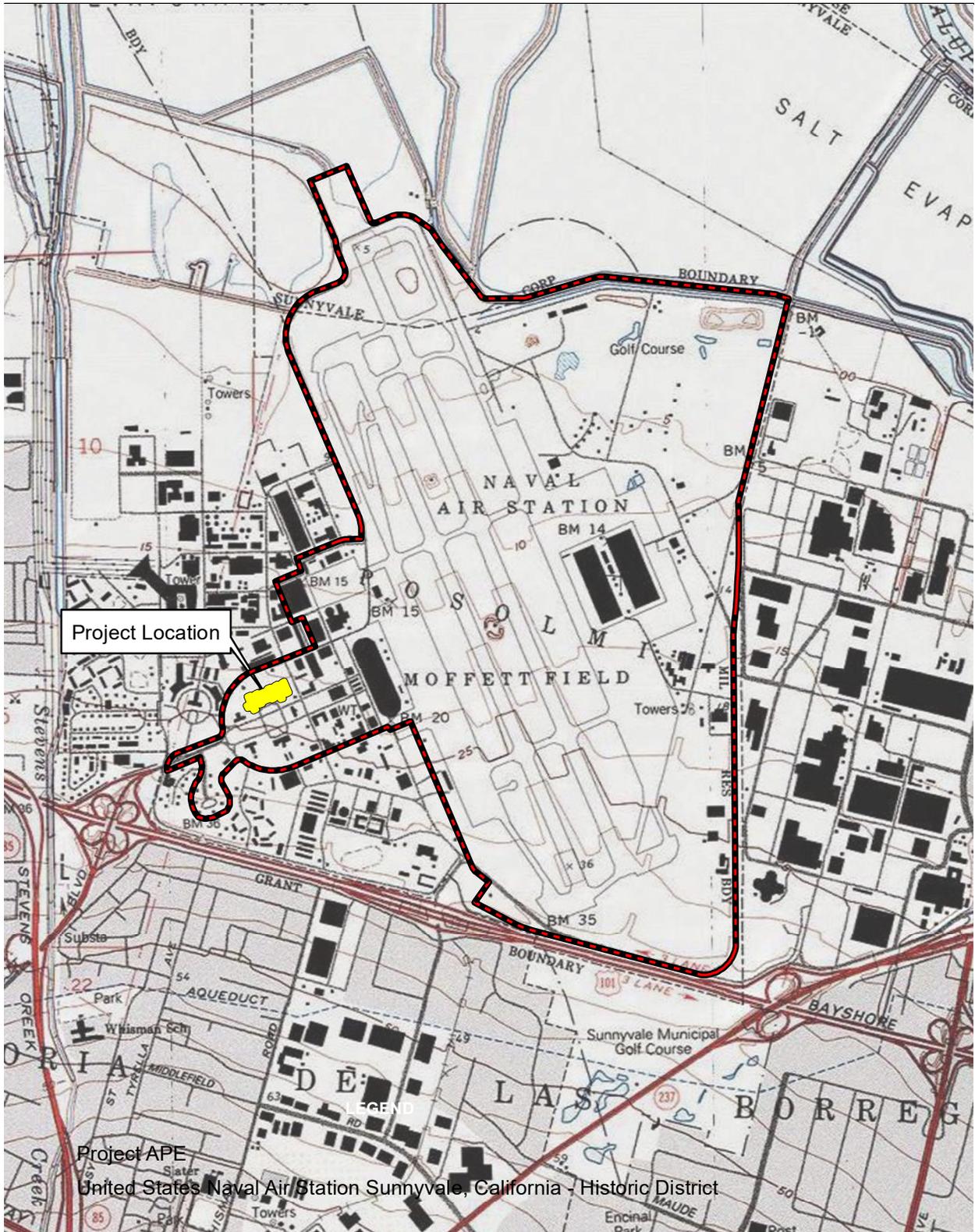
Ames Research Center, MS 213-8
Moffett Field, California 94035

cc:

HQ/EMD/Dr. Rebecca Klein, Ph.D., RPA

Enclosures

Figure 1 – Project Location; Figure 2 – Project Vicinity Map; Figure 3 – APE Map



Source: ESRI, AECOM, NASA, National Geographic Society; USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle: Mountain View



Figure 2
Project Vicinity Map

USGS Storage Container Project

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Figure 3
APE Map

USGS Storage Container Project

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